#### California's newest WMD response team validates at Camp Roberts

By Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake CERFP (pronounced "surf-pea") North, a team of approximately 120 National Guard soldiers specially trained in response to a "weapons of mass destruction" incident, has completed their training and certification here at Camp Roberts.

"The team did amazingly well," said Col. John Bernatz, director, taking into consideration that some of the training conducted was during torrential thunderstorms that struck the area, adding unexpected complications to the exercise.

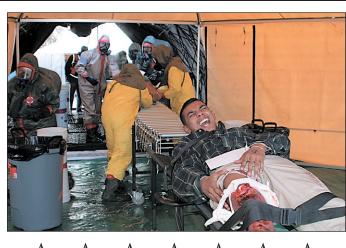
An acronym within an acronym, the "C" of CERFP represents "CBRNE," which stands for "Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or High-Yield Explosive," while the "ERFP" stands for "Enhanced Response Force Package."

The second in what will eventually become six units statewide, the soldiers of a CERFP are mostly "traditional" Guard citizen-soldiers who have regular civilian employment and usually serve one weekend a month and two weeks a year. They are intended to mobilize within six hours and follow behind

National Guard Civil Support Teams and Quick Reaction Forces, setting-up to decontaminate and provide treatment for the victims of a "weapon of mass destruction" or similar large-scale terrorist attack. To qualify for certification, the team must decontaminate and treat 60 victims an hour. Federal funding only provided for one CERFP unit according to Bernatz.

However, the Adjutant General of California, Maj.

See CERFP on page 2

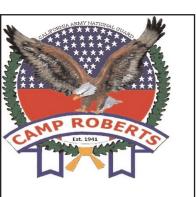


# ★★★★★ SUPPORTING THE WAR ON TERROR ★★★★★

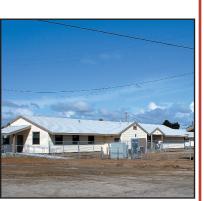


**HELPING YOUTH THROUGH YMCA EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM see** 

page 3



**NEW TRAINING FACILITIES MEET NATO** STANDARDS see photos on page 5



**CAMP ROBERTS UNDER GOING EXTENSIVE** RENOVATION,

see page 7



**ROAD BUILDERS: NEW QUARRY AND PAVING OPERATIONS**,

see page 8

# INSIDE: Training for the Ultimate Test



## Camp Roberts dedicates new Theater Specific **Individual Readiness Training Complex**

By Lisa Norris Camp Roberts Public Affairs Office On October 9, 2004 Camp Roberts added a new NATO-standard training complex to its facilities with the dedication of "Soldier Field," a Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training (TSIRT) Complex.

The TSIRT complex, a fifteen acre site consisting of former World War II-era "messhalls" that were renovated into modern classrooms and "training lanes" allows the practical application of classroom instruction under simulated combat conditions for soldiers mobilized in support of Global War on Terrorism

missions, United Nations peacekeeping missions, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Soldier Field training complex, along with the Soldier Readiness Processing Center and Central Issue Facility establish Camp Roberts as a premiere training site for units preparing for deployment.

Making this complex unique among Camp Roberts' facilities is summed-up in the facility's motto: "Built By Soldiers For Soldiers." Nearly all the construction and renovation has been performed by California Army National Guard

See TSIRT on page 2



3rd Brigade, 40th Infantry Division, cases its colors in a final ceremony before joining the United Nations Kosovo peace-keeping mission.

#### **CNG Soldiers** prepare to leave for Operation **Enduring Freedom**

ORE than 500 California Army National Guard soldiers from all over the state were honored during a farewell ceremony at Camp Roberts on October 21, 2004. After successfully completing Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training and Soldier Readiness Processing at Camp Roberts, these soldiers, known as Task Force Falcon, will spend a few months at Fort Lewis, Washington, preparing to support Operation Enduring Freedom in the Balkans. These soldiers will assist in the on-going United Nations peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts in the region and could be in country for up to 18 months.



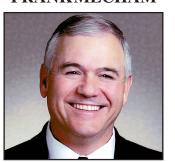


#### Welcome to Camp Roberts

By Colonel John F. Smith It is with great pleasure and pride that I welcome the reader to Camp Roberts. The past year has been an eventful one. We completed several important construction projects and significantly improved our training facilities with the upgrade of several weapon ranges and the addition of new training simulations. In cooperation with the local community, we hosted community activities such as hunting and fishing programs and the YMCA Youth & Government Program. Camp Roberts also took part in several State emergency operations and exercises. The aftermath of the terrorist attack on 11 September 2001 and the Nation's Greater War on Terrorism continues to guide our activities. Camp Roberts conducted training and other mobilization activities in support of thousands of California

See SMITH on page 3

#### FROMPASO MAYOR FRANKMECHAM



#### Paso proud to support our troops

ur community salutes our neighbor to our North. Over the many years, Camp "Bob", as its affectionately known, has been a vital part of the City of Paso Robles. That influence became even better understood last year, when at the Economic Forecast for Paso Robles, the economic influence to our area was clearly expressed. It isn't only the military presence, nor is it simply the on-going activity we see and hear. Camp Roberts provides jobs for the National Guard Staff and civilian personnel as well. Local contractors, suppliers, architects and engineers have all benefited by the increased activ ity. In addition, the military presence plays a large part in the economic interests of our restaurants,

See MAYOR on page 5

"The aftermath of the terrorist attack on 11 September 2001 and the Nation's Greater War on Terrorism continues to guide our activities."

- Col. John F. Smith

# TSIRT: New training facility viewed by skilled members of Latvian Army

Continued from page 1

soldiers, most using skills and tools acquired in their civilian occupations and with building materials either removed from other camp buildings scheduled for demolition or by "making do" with limited shelf stock on hand.

The renovated "messhalls" feature modern training equipment not available to the World War II trainee who ate his meal there, including computers and digital projection equipment, augmenting instruction in tactics and procedures with the most current "lessons learned." Realistic simulated enemy equipment allows the soldier to see and work with the potentially dangerous or life-threatening equipment and conditions they may encounter overseas in the safety of the classroom environment.

The "lanes training" area of the facility, an empty field that was left after the demolition of old barracks, takes lessons learned in the classroom and places them into realistic scenarios. This training includes level I anti-terrorism, mine/countermine warfare, booby traps, a force protection sniper corridor, personnel/vehicle checkpoint operations, country orientation, media awareness and medevac. According to Maj. Max Kurt Velte, Task Force Victory Assistant Operations Officer, the "Soldier Field exceeds US Army Forces Command standards and will provide soldiers an all in one training complex within marching distance of barracks and dining and troop service facilities.

It will be a turn-key facility that's convenient and economical."

Officers of the Latvian Army, in Sacramento for a Partnership for Peace Program meeting, visited Camp Roberts on October 7th to review the new training complex. Latvia is an eastern European Baltic nation that was among the

first to break "This meets the away from the former Soviet same standards as Union. The Latvian Army was we train to in among the first to perform the United Nations Capt. Juris Platonous of peacekeeping (PKO) missions the Latvian Army.

in the Balkans and are considered experts in NATO standards for training soldiers for peacekeeping missions. "It is important for us to hear him say that, that this matches what their training standard is," said Maj.

As a highly-flexible training complex, the Camp Roberts TSIRT can be adapted to present training scenarios in the different "theaters of operations" that California Army National Guard soldiers could operate in, including the United Nations' peacekeeping missions in Kosovo and Bosnia. Officers in charge of the TSIRT were seeking feedback from the Latvians as to how the Camp Roberts facility compares to the NATO training facilities they utilized during their PKO rotations in the Balkans.

"This meets the same standards as we train to in NATO," said Capt. Juris Platonous of the Latvian Army. Platonous served in the Balkans during the early days of the U.N. peacekeeping mission there and understands the value of the training offered at the TSIRT. "I was in a battalion that is sending

troops to missions all the time...I did that for four or five years."

The Latvian Army is also a member of the coalition forces in Iraq, according to Lt. Col. Martins Liberts. "The

same battalion (that Platonous had come from) is providing troops in Iraq. We are sustaining companyplus all the time."

NATO."

Work on the site included the discovery and restoration of a fountain and pond originally constructed by Italian prisoners-of-war who were held at Camp Roberts during World War II, one of two fountains known to still exist on the post.

The TSIRT construction crew also added contemporary adornments to the fountain and pool to honor California Guard soldiers who have given their lives in the line of duty in the Global War on Terrorism. Camp Roberts will have a formal dedication of the "Freedom Fountain" at a later date.



Latvian Army officers, who are considered experts in peace-keeping operations, bring lessons learned from their peace-keeping experiences and give a thumbs up to the new TSIRT complex at Camp Roberts.

# **Camp Roberts** By the

#### **Economic Impact**

In 2003 Camp Roberts had a positive economic impact totaling \$32,221,484 (yes, that's 32 million dollars) on the people and businesses of California

#### **Capital Assets**

3.5 mil square feet facilities 1,044 buildings 42,814 acres miles 81.5 improved roads 63.5 miles unimproved 5 miles of rail-

200 miles of tank trails

way

Total Estimated Net Worth - \$1.2 Bil

#### Workforce

84% military 16% civilian Total Fulltime = 444 Average Salary = \$49,345

#### **Facility Improvements**

Construction Projects FY 2003 - \$5 Mil Construction Projects FY 2004 - \$11.9 million Projected Construction Projects FY2005 -\$13.7 million



California National Guard soldiers perform triage and search and rescue during a simulated chemical and nuclear weapons attack.

## **CERFP: Soldiers practice search,** rescue and evacuation techniques

#### Continued from page 1

Gen. Thomas Eres, believed that California's "tpotential for terrorism warranted the creation five additional teams for the state. "We're planning on something like this occurring," said Col. Keith Jones, Commander of the 49th Combat Support Command, the CERFP's senior command. "It's much safer, and more prudent, to plan for it."

#### **URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

Camp Roberts' old World War II barracks areas, no longer in use, provided an "urban" environment for soldiers to practice search, rescue and evacuation techniques. "Victims," many of them soldiers from the already certified "CERFP-South," were outfitted with realistic-looking wounds and performed roles that a CERFP soldier might encounter in an actual incident

response. Even the irregularities of the weather during their training provided unintended opportunities: the more-typical Camp Roberts heat provided challenges for the soldiers to meet as they trained in their heavy protective gear and the cold rains and gale-force winds provided challenges not normally encountered in a typical training event.

After the scene is secured, search and rescue teams bring victims to a treatment area for decontamination. Those who are able to walk are led through a shower tent, where contaminants are scrubbed and rinsed off, while those brought in by stretcher teams have their stretcher placed on roller-conveyers and are treated "assembly-line" style. All victims are then checked for contamination before being allowed to

"A lot of us got into the National Guard for national defense. You go into it expecting this kind of scenario."

Capt. Daniel Heany

proceed on to medical treatment. Once stabilized or treated, the victims are then loaded onto the appropriate form of evacuation transport and taken from the scene.

#### **VITAL ROLE**

It costs \$1.4 million to equip a CERFP team, according to Bernatz, and an additional \$500,000 a year to maintain each team. Because of the expense of providing such specialized training, members of the CERFP are exempt from deployment to the active Army missions the National Guard is supporting elsewhere in the world during their

24-month tour. They still play a vital role in the California National Guard's responsibility for Homeland Defense, however.

"We live in a new world today," Bernatz says. "We live in a world where an enemy has brought a war back to our shores."

CERFP-North is now ready to be there should the unthinkable happen again. "A lot of us got into the National Guard for national defense," said Capt. Daniel Heany. "You go into it expecting this kind of scenario."

#### **SMITH:Camp Roberts dedicated to** upholding standards of quality

Continued from page 1

Army National Guardsmen and women being mobilized for duty here and aboard. The purpose or mission of Camp Roberts is to support all of these diverse activities. Camp Roberts is dedicated to upholding the standards of quality established by the Adjutant General of the California National Guard and maintaining Department of Defense principles of excellence for installations. In doing so, we will remain focused on our mission to sustain joint forces training and mobilizations concurrently with

state emergency operations and community support. Our urgent goal for Camp Roberts is to revitalize the existing structures and infrastructure. In this next year, we plan to finish construction of the Soldier Readiness Processing Center, build a new dining facility, and refurbish the post theater and three more battalion complexes (barracks, laundry rooms, day rooms).

The post offers many facilities and opportunities to enhance training and support. In the coming training years we add new live-fire weapon

ranges. We will also field a Distance Learning Center and a simulation complex for live, virtual, and constructive combat training. Our Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Department will expand services available to soldiers and public organizations. And in the course of all this, I intend to continue a partnership of goodwill with our communities. We look forward to providing the platform for support of all your training, operational, and recreational needs. Welcome to Camp Roberts



Members of the Camp Roberts Employee Council gather at the Main Gate before beginning their "perimeter patrol" for the Adopt-a-Highway Program.

# **Employee Council "patrols"** the outer perimeter

By Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake LTHOUGH Camp Roberts is a busy place during ▲ mobilizations, members of the Camp Roberts Employee Council still manage to break away from their busy schedules once a month and do their part to help keep their part of California beautiful. As traffic whizzes by them mere yards away in a 70-plus miles-per-hour blur, they do a good old-fashioned military "police call," picking-up litter outside the camp's front fence.

#### **ADOPT A HIGHWAY**

The camp's Employee Council is an active participant in Caltrans (the California Department of Transportation) "Adopt-a-Highway" program, working the last Thursday of the month, weather and missions permitting, to clean-up litter on U. S. Highway 101. The council, consisting largely of the camp's civilian employees who are also residents in the surrounding communities, covers both sides of the highway for one mile in both directions from the Camp Roberts' Main Gate. Caltrans regulations for the project prohibit Adopt-a-Highway volunteers from working in the center divider and steep hillsides that are a part of the Camp Roberts Employee Council coverage area.

A typical "haul" consists of around 15 bags of trash. With an

Salute to Camp

Roberts

This special edition of a Salute to Camp Roberts

in the Paso Robles Press

help of the following indi-

was completed with the

Shannon Kruse, *Paso* 

Camp Roberts Public

Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake, Camp Roberts Public

viduals:

Robles Press

Affairs officer

Affairs NCO

photographer

Franco Federici,

Lisa Norris,

estimated weight of most of the distinctive white bags around 20 pounds, they are gathered together at several locations on the side of the road for later collection by Caltrans.

In addition to providing trash bags, Caltrans also provides blazeorange "Adopt-a-Highway Volunteer" safety vests and a tool for picking-up the trash from the ground to eliminate the need to stoop. The pick-up tool is particularly welcome for handling the most common of what all involved considered the most disgusting of roadside trash, the disposable diaper. Several are picked-up at every clean up, neatly folded and suitable for proper disposal, but flung out the car window to litter the highway instead.

Most of the trash usually consists of thoughtlessly tossed fast-food wrappers and containers, presumably from fast-food restaurants 15 minutes south in Paso Robles. Also usually well represented are beverage cans and bottles.

#### **MORE THAN TRASH**

Not all found on the side of the highway is trash. Paper money has been found before in previous clean ups, the largest being a \$20 bill. Tools, such as the pair of large slipjoint pliers recovered recently, are frequent finds as well.

Some litter seems to defy explana-

tion, such as the articles of clothing Bonnie Nelson, a civilian employee at Camp Roberts, says she has found on the side of the road. "You sometimes wonder what people are thinking," she says.

Some litter seems to make the case for either driving with the windows or convertible top up when driving the posted-70 miles-perhour speed limit in the area. Recent finds have included things that have apparently blown out of a car, such as a photo of a man with his dog and a nicely laminated street map of San Luis Obispo County.

#### **UNTOLD STORIES**

And some items of litter have a story that would probably never be completely told: the remains of reflector posts are occasionally picked-up from the side of the road, a silent witness to the inattentiveness of an unknown driver who got just a little too close to the edge of the road.

The Camp Roberts Employee Council consists of approximately a dozen employee volunteers working at the camp. In addition to their participation in the Adopt-a-Highway program, the Employee Council organizes various fundraisers throughout the year in order to sponsor the camp's annual employee Christmas party.

We are privileged to pay tribute to our area veterans. We owe you a world of gratitude!

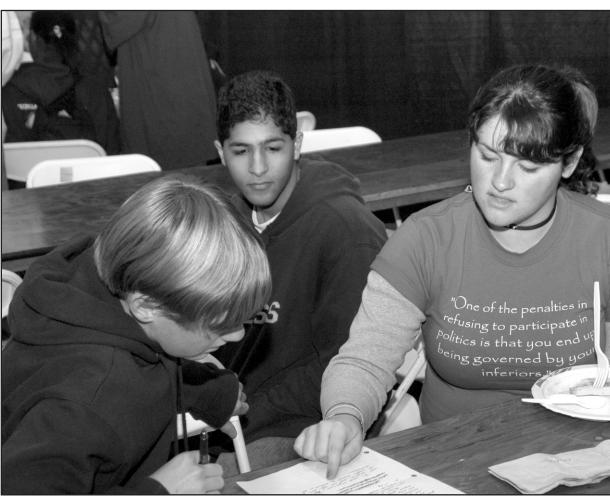
Navajo Rock & Block

2490 Ramada Drive Paso Robles 238-0955

To All of Our Area Veterans, Past & Present, Thank You For Your Service, to Insure Our Freedom!







Stephanie Rhodes, right, an advisor with the Torrance YMCA, makes some suggestions concerning legislation being proposed by Nathan Gibson, left. Riaz Rahim, center, looks on. Rhodes' shirt has a quote from Plato: "One of the penalties in refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors."

## Support to YMCA education program enters 14th year

By Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake **T**HILE most California students will be taking a long weekend away from studies over this Veteran's Day weekend, new student delegates of the California YMCA's Youth and Government Program spend their weekend learning more about the political process at the YMCA Youth and Government's 33rd Annual Training and Elections I Conference. The conference returns for the 14th consecutive year to Camp Roberts.

The program educates young people in the workings of the political process and the organization of state-level government through the organization and operation of a Model Legislature and Court during the school year. In addition to six months of weekly sessions held at local YMCA's throughout the state, the program holds two training sessions at Camp Roberts: a smaller introductory session for new delegates in November, and the much larger mandatory threeday conference for the election of next year's officials in January.

This year's program ends in Sacramento with the 57th Model Legislature and Court in February. Camp Roberts' location, size and economic accommodations capable of housing and providing conference facilities for the over 2,600 students, advisors and program volunteers who attended last January's larger conference, have come to make it a welcome cost-effective

alternative to arranging comparable hotel space. "If we didn't have Camp Roberts," said Director Bud Sheble, "we could only be in some huge hotel.... skyrocketing the cost so most kids could not participate."

Sheble said even with the savings afforded by using Camp Roberts' facilities, yearly costs approach \$700.00 for each participant, making the camp "the most wonderful thing that has happened to this program."

Use of the camp's facilities also helps to reduce the drain on an endowment fund established by former California Governor George Deukmejian that provides scholarships for those deserving delegates

whose families simply cannot afford to send them to the program, enabling more disadvantaged youths to attend. Program Director Avi Wolfe said

the great relationships established over the years with the Camp Roberts staff makes the event easier to run. "They bend over backwards to accommodate us," he said.

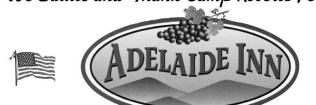
Sheble echoed Wolfe's sentiments: "We consider it our program's second home."

Sheble is hopeful the Youth and Government Program will be able to continue to use Camp Roberts and its facilities in the years to come. "We know of no other place this training could take place.



500 Linne Road, Suite F., Paso Robles • 805-237-4994

We Salute and Thank Camp Roberts Personnel!



1215 Ysabel Ave. at Hwys. 101 & 46 East (805) 238-2770



**Proudly salutes the troops of Camp Roberts** 



Service Sales Rentals

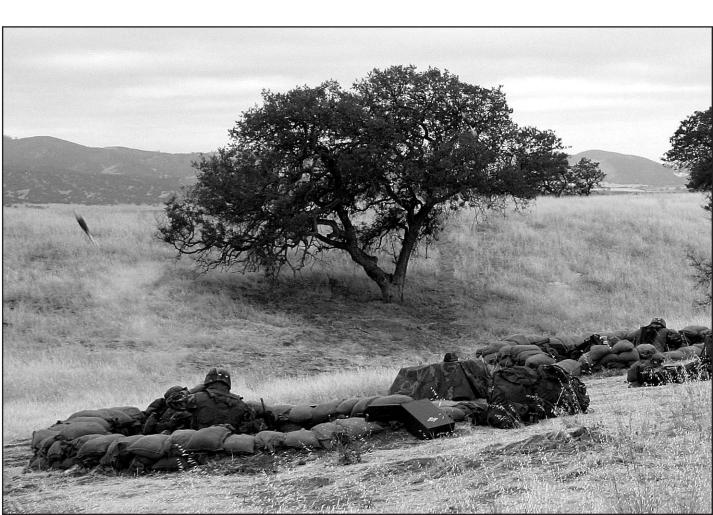
Sound System Design and Installations Churches **Schools** Tank Ranges

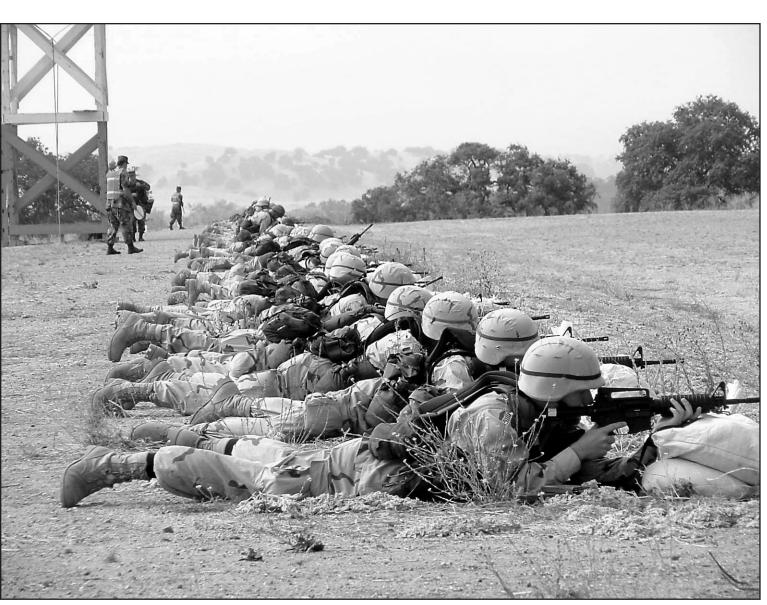
835 Richardo Court, San Luis Obispo (805) 544-8944 www.jackmusicfactory.com

# **Camp Roberts: Training the Warfighter**



Camp Roberts' 40,000 acres allows for training in a broad range of soldier skills in a wide range of environments.





The installation can train and qualify soldiers in numerous weapons systems, from small arms to 155 mm cannon. Above right, 184th Infantry snipers, one in a ghillie suit, participate in a live fire exercise.









proudly supports Camp Roberts and the brave men and women who serve our country!



For he who sheds his blood with me shall be my brother."

-William Shakespeare

# \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* A SALUTE TO \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* ★★★★ SUPPORTING THE WAR ON TERROR ★★★★

# **Camp Roberts: Training the Warfighter**





ABOVE AND LEFT: California Army National Guard soldiers train at the new Camp **Roberts Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training complex** 







Soldiers receive training in Level I Anti-terrorism, media awareness, mine awareness, countermine skills, force protection lanes situational awareness, MEDEVAC skills, and country orientation at the new TSIRT site at Camp Roberts.



Jeff & Roxana Sale

Real Estate Brokers & Income Tax Preparers 805-238-1012

1218 Spring Street • Paso Robles

#### **PRAXAIR**

Gases • Dry Ice • Cutting Tools • Safety • Welding

Praxair Distribution, Inc. 916 W. Betteravia Rd. Santa Maria, CA 93455 Tel: 805 928-3622 Fax: 805 928-4806 Cell: 805 431-0835

1148 12th Street Paso Robles, CA 93446 Tel: 805 239-1161 Fax 805 239-1448

Randy Quintana Randy\_Quintana@Praxair.com

www.express.praxair.com

Territory Manager

#### Thank you for your dedication!

• OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • Let us help you solve your cleaning problems!

WESTERN JANITOR SUPPLY, INC.

1026 Pine St., **Paso Robles** Linda Buss, President



(805) 238-2112 (805) 352-4540 Fax (805) 238-6434

# Veteran's Day Ceremony

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2004, 11:00 AM

at the

Paso Robles District Cemetery

Flags on grave markers placed by the American Legion Post 50 & VFW Post 10965.

Refreshments served by the Board of Trustees of the PRDC. Sound by Clifford Munk

Fly Over Estrella War Birds

**Master of Ceremonies** John Crisali, Commander VFW Post

10965

Invocation

Reverend Jim Damewood Plymouth Congregational Church

> Remarks Rosie Flynn Cemetery Office Manager

Welcome

Tom Harrington

Christian Life Center **Honor Guard** 

VFW Post 10965, American Legion Post 50 TAPS - Ward Clark, VFW

Post 10965

by Laurie Valaau

**Guest Speaker** 

General Muggelberg, Retired

Placing of the Wreaths

Mr. & Mrs. John Furster

American Legion Post 50

Jim Grant & Sherry Reeger VFW

Post 10965 & Aux.

**Closing Prayer** 

Pastor Don Smith

#### **MAYOR**

#### Continued from page 1

theaters, retail shops and stores.

Before our troops deployed for Iraq, the "Mother of all Bar-B-O's" was held at Camp Roberts to show our support for the troops and their families. And when they returned, we were here for them with a welcome in the City Park and another Bar-B-Q. This community, for as long as I can recall, has always supported and appreciated our military men and women. Since that deployment, there have been others and there will be more. Our support and appreciation must never

waiver or diminish. With the presence of "Sat Com" and their future plans and the increased exercises by the California National Guard, our community will continue to feel the influence economically, socially and politically. In my estimation, this is good news for Paso Robles. I look forward to a firm, long-lasting and valued relationship with our neighbor. We thank you for your support of Paso Robles and welcome you into our community. But more so, we thank the men and women of our Armed Forces for their dedication, allegiance and sacrifice in be-half of this great nation of ours.

Congratulations on another fine and successful year!

Respectfully, Mayor Frank Mecham

"In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility -- I welcome it."

- John F. Kennedy

## **Camp Roberts Opera House**

By Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake AMP Roberts, already known as the place patriotic Hollywood performers would come to entertain troops in training during World War II and the Korean War, now has the distinction of being perhaps the only military base in the United States to have had an opera house. This previously-unknown part of the Camp Roberts story has been rediscovered with the donation of memorabilia from the collection of the late opera impresario, Vladimir Rosing, by his widow Ruth Rosing, to the Camp Roberts Museum. Mrs. Rosing was accompanied to the September presentation by Mathias E. Kelemen, who met Vladimir while training as a soldier at Camp Roberts, later becoming his "righthand man" as a Production Manager for the Rosing "stage

spectaculars" and a Hollywood

agent in his own right. Vladimir, who fled his native Russia rather than live under Communist rule, was hired during World War II by the War Department to be the Director of Camp Presentations for the Camp Roberts Special Services Branch. He produced a number of musical and variety shows for the soldiers training at Camp Roberts, working with Red Skelton, "Camp Roberts' most famous private," and directing numerous other MGM movie personalities allowed to perform as a service to the soldiers by studio founder Louis B. Mayer.

Vladimir stayed true to his "roots' as a world-renown opera tenor, however, and introduced soldiers to the world of opera, a seemingly unlikely draw for men training for war. A master showman as well, he made his operas more interesting for the average G.I. by performing

his productions in English and billing them as "musicals" instead. All of his shows were also known for the large number of women performing in them: as the post newspaper said about Vladimir's first production of the operetta The Merry Widow, "... the boys saw a show of girls, beautiful music, comical situations and lots of laughs."

#### **ROSING DONATION**

The Rosing donation will become a part of a display recognizing the performers who have entertained soldiers over the years, such as Bob Hope and Jane Russell, now under construction in the Post Museum Annex. The display will also recognize Hollywood personalities, such as Red Skelton, that have trained or served at Camp Roberts: Robert Mitchum, Van Heflin, Bob Newhart, Tom Selleck and Tony Dow and Ken Osmond ("Wally"



and "Eddie Haskell" of "Leave It to Beaver" fame).

Camp Roberts' Theater 1, the main post theater that was the site of a number of Rosing's productions and Red Skelton's show stage when he performed here, fell out of regular use and subsequently into disrepair with the reduction in the number of soldiers training at the camp in the 1980s. With the increase in soldiers passing through Camp Roberts in support of missions across the nation and around

the world, the theater is presently undergoing renovation for its return to service as a training lecture hall and movie theater. A proposal has been made to name the refurbished facility in honor of Red Skelton.

## **Historical Museum** adds exhibit

#### Exhibits feature stage and screen stars of the past

The newest addi-

playbills from

musicals from '44

and '45.

By Gary McMaster, Exhibit Director

At the Camp Roberts Museum the all-volunteer staff is always finding interesting tidbits of information on Camp Roberts' history to highlight in new exhibits. Photos and biog-

raphical info on some of Camp Roberts' most tion to the musefamous "alumni" — like actors um's collection is Robert Mitchum photographs and and Van Heflinhave been recently added to the video viewing room. Vladimir Rosing Another recent

addition is actor Steve Reeves, Hollywood's "Hercules." Before becoming

"Mr. World" and 'Mr. Universe" and then going to to star in many strongman screen epics during the late 50s and 60s, Reeves did his Basic Training and AIT at Camp Roberts during WWII. He was sent to the Phillipines with his infantry company to fight the Japanese, and was stationed in occupied Japan at war's end.

To enter this new exhibit in the Museum Annex just inside Camp Roberts' main gate, the visitor walks

through an entryway flanked with theater drapes with WWII soldier taking tickets to Skelton's Red "Girl Crazy"—one of the many shows that Mr. Rosing produced at Camp Roberts.

Mrs. Rosing has also offered to donate several hundred copies of the book she

wrote on her late husband. Pick u your copy at the Camp Roberts Museum Gift Shop Thursdays and Saturdays from 9-4, or call 238-8288 for more information.



#### **MEMORIES AND RENOVATIONS**

**ABOVE: Camp Roberts Post** Theater 1, home of numerous productions by Val Rosing and stage performances by Red Skelton, "Camp Roberts" Most Famous Private." The theater is currently undergoing renovation for use as a lecture hall and movie the-

LEFT:Ruth Rosing, widow of Valdimir Rosing, and his onetime "right-hand man," Mathias Kelemen, view materials Rosing donated to the Camp Roberts Museum. (Photos by Franco Federici)

#### HANK SAVAGE JR. & SONS

**Proudly Supports Camp Roberts, our Troops,** and George W. Bush

**Concrete Contractor, Cleaning & Maintenance** 

Serving SLO County for 33 years

467-3969

#### We Appreciate Our Area Veterans

 General **Auto Repair** 

Electrical

 Diagnostic Computer



1628 Spring Street Paso Robles 239-8429 We are proud to honor our area Veterans!

227-1428

Highway 24 West: 3090 Anderson Rd, Paso Robles

#### VISIT US AT WWW.PASOROBLESPRESS.COM



**Dazette** 

Your News and Advertising Leader

PASO ROBLES PRESS & GAZETTE

> (805) 237-6060 Fax: (805) 237-6066

1636 Spring Street Paso Robles, CA 93446

# Suburban Propane

Wants to salute our Veterans and thank the men & women still in service!

3455 Theatre Drive, Paso Robles, CA 93446 Phone 238-1622 — Fax 238-3011 csc1647@suburbanpropane.com \*See store for details.

# The Coffee Dude

By Lisa Norris Camp Roberts Public Affairs Office

APPUCCINO anyone? Anyone who spends much time at Camp Roberts these days knows who "The Coffee Dude" is. He's Steve Sackett from Paso Robles. The one-man show serves up fresh brewed coffee, lattes and smoothies at Camp Roberts seven-days a week.

"I used to come in the gate and nobody was there. Now, it's come alive up here," Sackett said one recent afternoon between rain showers. "Everybody's been so supportive and helpful; from the Keisters to Bill and Ron with the engineers, Maj. Mavroleon and Angie, Lt. Col. Martin and Capt. Jarvis at the MATES, and the TSIRT crew. It's amazing."

When asked to recommend a drink, Steve says his signature drink would have to be the white mocha. He sells a lot of white mochas. Then there's his version of the caramel macchiato that he fondly calls "The Keister" after John and Betty Keister and the "1498th Special," a double shot with Hersheys named after the 1498th Transportation Company. He also has the all new "Thunder Smoothie," an amazing low carbohydrate meal replacement drink.

Steve has been a part of the team at Camp Roberts since contracting with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service in the Spring of 2001. He had sales over \$63,000 at Camp Roberts alone last year. and plans to add soups and salads to the menu. Says Sackett, "I couldn't have done any of this without the support of Cahoots Catering out of San Miguel. They've been great."



#### **ESPRESSO A-GO-GO**

Steve Sackett serves coffee on a cold, wet morning to eagerly waiting soldiers on the ranges at Camp Roberts. Sackett drives his "espresso a-go-go" truck to Camp Roberts seven days a week.



#### WHAT IS OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Camp Roberts saw some building improvement at the Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) Area this past year. The new buildings house medical, dental, and chaplain offices and a new identification card center, which is expected to be complete by the end of the year. Local contractors worked extensively on the project.



# New troop services building

AMP Roberts new Troop Services Building, now one of the most modern buildings on the installation, houses the Billeting Office, Internet Café and Barbershop. The Billeting Office has been busy this year trying to make life more comfortable for soldiers temporarily housed on the base. They've replaced the 70s vintage beds and have installed satellite television in most of the rooms. New dayrooms are almost complete. These dayrooms will be equipped with satellite television, air hockey and other games. New or used books, bookcases, magazines, DVD and VHS movies are needed. To make a donation to the troop dayrooms please contact Cybil at 238-8312.



#### You Fought For Our Freedom!

We would like to thank all those who have fought, past and present, to secure our right to be free!

Savage Spirits

2050 Spring Street, Paso Robles – 238-0141

#### **LOOMIS Tank Center**

Drinking Water
Fire Protection & Irrigation
Chemicals & Fertilizers
Septic & Transport Tanks
WE DELIVER ANYWHERE!

2650 Ramada Dr. Paso Robles, CA 93446 Office: (805) 239-2279 Cellular: (805) 459-3179 Toll Free 1-200-549-2279

Polyethylene & Fiberglass Tanks

(805) 238-2800 Cell (805) 550-8243 999 PASO ROBLES ST.

PASO ROBLES

**Mel Lee**District Manager

SANTA MARIA (805) 922-8406



Cal-Coast Irrigation, Inc.

– General Douglas MacArthur

# Paso Robles welcomes its heroes home

By Lisa Norris Camp Roberts Public Affairs Office

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* A SALUTE TO \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

★★★ SUPPORTING THE WAR ON TERROR ★★★★

T started in March 2003 with a pitcher of beer purchased as a "random act of kindness" by a local resident for a group of soldiers eating at a Paso Robles restaurant. It came full-circle with the citizens of Paso Robles and surrounding communities welcoming home "their troops," the 1498th Transportation Company (Heavy Equipment Transportation) of the California Army National Guard, with a parade and another barbeque celebrating their safe return after a year in Iraq. Moved by the gratitude and respect showed to him and his family by the grateful soldiers, the resident related his story to an audience listening to Paso Robles radio station KPRL AM 1230.

His call ignited a groundswell of spontaneous community support, leading to the "Mother of All Barbeques" for the soldiers of the 1498th at Camp Roberts, where the unit was training for deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Hundreds of community members from the Paso Robles area and nearby surrounding communities raised thousands of dollars in cash and "in-kind" donations to throw a "farewell" barbeque for the soldiers and their families before the 1498th departed for Iraq in May 2003.

Many of those same citizens reached in to their pockets and purses again to make good on the pledge made by the mayor of Paso Robles at that barbeque to hold another celebration upon the return of what became "their troops." And they lined the main street of Paso Robles to cheer the returning soldiers as they marched into the town's square, filling the soldiers with renewed pride in their service and their country and even moving some of the now battle-hardened veterans to tears.

"It was very heartwarming and emotional to see the folks lining Spring Street and the park full of people. The 1498th is very grateful to the community of Paso Robles for their generous support," said 1st Sgt. James E. Norris

Comprised of 266 soldiers from units throughout California under the leadership of Captain Matthew Hook and 1st Sgt. James E. Norris, the 1498th is a heavy equipment transportation company with the primary mission of moving large combat systems, including the M-1 "Abrams" main battle tank, quickly over long distances. The unit served a total of 18 months of total Army service, with 12 months "in-country" in Kuwait and Iraq, logging more than two million miles in hostile territories. A "typical" mission usually consisted of picking-up a load in Kuwait, delivering that load to Iraq, moving other equipment as needed within Iraq, before taking a load out of Iraq and returning to Kuwait.

While sustaining no fatalities, soldiers were involved in more than a dozen hostile attacks. Ten soldiers received the Purple Heart for combat wounds received, with an additional three soldiers receiving the Bronze Star Medal and four soldiers receiving the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device, signifying an award for valor, for their bravery under enemy fire.



Soldiers of the 1498th Transportation Company march down Spring Street during a parade that honored their return home from their mission in Iraq. The celebration also included a barbecue.





#### ROAD BUILDERS

The Guard's 145th Engineer Company is a completely mobile road paving unit, capable of deploying anywhere in the world to grade and pave roads, runways and other surfaces. The unit has worked for the past two years toward the goal of establishing the 150 ton-anhour rock crushing, screening and washing plant at Camp Roberts.

The first rocks were crushed on October 27, 2004.



Camp Roberts Fire Department is first on scene at a vehicle collision and fire on Highway 101, north of Camp Roberts.

#### Camp Roberts' "Community Ambassadors"

ther than soldiers,
Camp Roberts' second most visible
presence in the community is its fire
department. Camp Roberts Fire
responded to over 200 calls in the
surrounding communities in 2003
as a participant in mutual aid
agreements with San Luis Obispo
County Fire and Monterey County
Fire, according to Fire Chief W.
"Sonny" Breland, nearly a third of
all responses for the department
that year.



A Camp Roberts firefighter monitors a fire in the "impact area" at Camp Roberts. The "impact area," which sometimes contains unexploded ammunition, is usually allowed to burn within containment zones, if it catches fire.

"People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf."

-George Orwell



Maj. Gen. Thomas Eres, Adjutant General of California, views "Freedom Fountain," a restored fountain originally built by Italian prisoners-of-war that were confined at Camp Roberts during WWII. The fountain will be dedicated to the memory of California National Guard soldiers lost in the Global War on Terrorism

# Freedom Fountain

ne Freedom Fountain, discovered by the Task Force Victory construction crew after having been buried nearly 60 years under a foot of dirt, was originally constructed during World War II by Italian prisoners of war held at Camp Roberts.

The crew members decided to restore the fountain to help preserve Camp Roberts' history, and

have added to it in memory of all California Army National Guard soldiers who have fallen in the line of duty in the Global War on

The Fountain is a constant symbol of the ultimate sacrifice soldiers make and a reminder to all who train at Soldier Field that what they learn here will save their lives and the lives of their fellow soldiers.

#### **SYMBOLOGY OF PARTS:**

**Helmet**—represents a soldier at prayer.

**Weapons**—represents guardians protecting the site.

Water cascading down—represents tears for those who gave their lives in service for their country. Mural in the Pond—represents those soldiers who served their country.





Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Syzdek and Maj. Michael Leeney wrap the flag of the 3rd Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment.

# Task Force 3-160 completes training at Camp Roberts



By Staff Sgt. Tom Murotake CAMP ROBERTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE embers of the California Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 160th Infantry Regiment, have completed training at Camp Roberts and cased their colors in a ceremony on October

The unit now has the designation of Task Force 3-160 Infantry, and will deploy overseas shortly as Multi-National Force and Observers (MFO) 48 to the Sinai Peninsula, observing the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel signed in 1979. The Sinai peacekeeping mission is one of the longest-running United Nations peacekeeping missions in the world.

With a 150-mile by 50-mile area of operations, the Task Force is keeping the peace in a very large area indeed. "We are the only infantry battalion in the world securing that much territory," said Lt. Col. Andrew Flynn, the battalion commander.

This mission marks the first time a California Army National Guard unit has deployed to the Sinai peacekeeping mission and this one-year assignment is a first for any Army infantry battalion; previous rotations had only been six months in duration. "We have a unique opportunity to set the standard for every infantry battalion that follows us on this mission," Flynn said.

As part of a ceremony steeped in tradition, the casing of the battalion's colors symbolized the battalion leaving the command of the 40th Infantry Division, its higher headquarters, and the command of the State of California.

Flynn also recognized the sacrifices of the families of the soldiers. "Taking a husband, brother, uncle or grandfather away for 16 months is a very difficult situation to place you in," he said. "It is most difficult for our children who will miss their fathers."

However, for the families and the soldiers, Flynn spoke of the higher purpose of the mission by quoting an unnamed poet: "'We are fortunate that we can sleep well at night because there are rough men at the ready who are guarding our doors," he said. "We are those rough soldiers who are ferocious in war and gentlemen in peace guarding the doors so that our families can sleep well at night knowing they are well-protected.'

The Task Force will report to Fort Lewis, Wash., this week for an additional month of training before assuming the peacekeeping mission in January.



scooter features Compact and easy to

maneuver through tight

**Paso Robles** 805-237-9077

· Weight capacity 300 lbs.

**Toll-Free** 888-690-6870

Desserts

Catering

Available

Nipomo

805-929-5876

Good Old Down Home Cookin'

Just like Mom's – and we have apple pie!

A FAMILY STYLE RESTAURANT 841 13th St., Paso Robles (805) 238-3988

Thank You for All Your Hard Work!

Great Mexican Food!

Pride Sundancer

Mon-Fri 6-8

"Where the

Local Heros

Hang Out"



LUNCH & **DINNER SPECIALS EVERYDAY** 

Patio Dining • Take-Out • Gift Certificates Your Hosts, Esper & Ted Ontiveros

305 Spring St., Paso Robles • 239-5777

#### Thank You to All Area Veterans!

#### Mexicana Restaurant

Come Join Us For Delicious Food!

237-9697

637 – 13th Street, Paso Robles HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 10am - 9pm, Sun. 8am - 9pm

Haircare for the entire family.

631 Creston Rd.

Paso Robles

"Treat yourself to the Best"

NICK'S BARBER & HAIR DESIGN

**Proudly Supports Camp Roberts** 



Call for appt. (805) 238-6246



(Formerly across from Ralphs)

# AMP ADALATI HISTORICAL MUSEUM

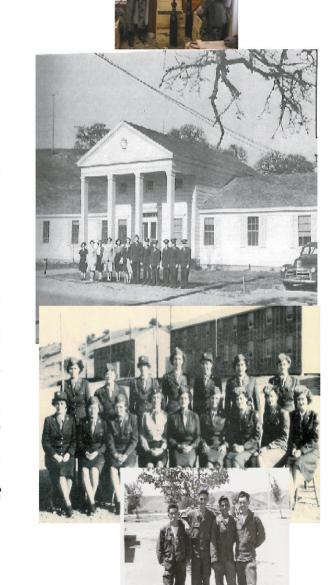
Thirty years in development and we're not done yet.



### **Admission is free**

The Museum staff wishes to thank all of those who have supported our efforts over the years to preserve the history of Camp Roberts and the memory of those men and women that have gone on to serve this great country of ours.

The history of Camp Roberts is the story people who became soldiers and served their country. It's a story rich in wonder, amusement and tragedy. It's about the many civilian employees that without whom the Camp could not have gotten the job done. It's about how life forever changed in this part of the world. It's about people drawn from all parts of this country to create the greatest Army in history. It's a story of sacrifice



WILL YOU HELP US PRESERVE THESE STORIES?

VOLUNTEERS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED
NO SKILL TURNED DOWN

We're located on Camp Roberts, 12 miles north of Paso Robles, CA on Highway 101

The Camp Roberts Historical Museum is a non-profit museum dedicated to preserving the history of Camp Roberts and those that have trained there. People interested in supporting the Museum, as a volunteer/member or through donations, are encouraged to stop in at the Museum, or call (805) 238-8288 or (805) 237-0819, for more information. Our mailing address is Box 14, Camp Roberts, CA 93451-5000. Our email address is crmiltmus@tcsn.net

With tax season just around the corner we hope you will keep us in mind. We can assure you your donations will go far in helping us develop a world class museum for this community, one worthy of those that have given the ultimate sacrifice

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS SPONSORED BY RICK AND KATHLEEN ORTEGA AND THE LAW OFFICES OF KATHLEEN ORTEGA.

